

Idaho libraries tap into grant funds

The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners recently awarded several Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants recently including:

- Ada Community, Advocacy Grant Digital Native Summit for \$3,750
- Boise Basin Library District, Advocacy Grant eAudiobook tour for \$3,739.04
- Lewiston City Library, Access for All Seniors Outreach Homebound program for \$2,000.
- Kootenai Shoshone Libraries, Access for All Seniors Outreach Program for \$2,000.
- There were three grants awarded for video game programming: Stanley Public Library for \$3,738.60, Mountain Home Public for \$5,295 and Clearwater District, Weippe for \$8,600 for video programming and teen zone.

The Commission also awarded numerous grants to attend library conference for the first time. State-funded Read to Me mini-grants were also awarded to 30 libraries in June. For more information about grants, contact Sonja Hudson at the Commission.



Dedication. Left to right Board Member Bobbie Sailer, Board Chairman Don Johnson, Flo's husband Merlin Hawkes with plaque, and Board Member Caren Durrant gathered to celebrate Hawkes' vision.

Trustee's legacy honored in Kuna

A community celebration marked the dedication of the Florence Hawkes Trustee Conference Room at Kuna Library on May 7th. Family, friends, civic leaders, and library workers gathered to celebrate the vision of Flo Hawkes, a 14-year Library Board Trustee, who passed earlier this year.

Kuna Library dedicated the room in honor of Flo's years of service and defining commitment to the library. Best known for her vision of a full-service library in Kuna, Hawkes spearheaded the successful \$1.2 million library bond in 1998. The bond resulted in Kuna Library's current downtown home, where circulation rates grew from 42 checkouts per day in 1993 to nearly 2,000 books per day under Hawkes' leadership.

In addition to her years as a library trustee, Hawkes was an educator for

25 years, and served on the City Council and the school board. She received the Idaho Library Association's Trustee of the Year award in 2007.

"Flo's deep care and understanding of the Kuna Library community is her legacy," said Kuna Library Director Anne Hankins. "She challenged others and herself to reach for the stars, and bring others along the learning path to enjoy the journey. She is deeply missed, but we keep her dream close to our hearts with the dedication of the Florence "Flo" Hawkes Trustee Conference Room."

Hawkes' vision of a community library surrounded by a white picket fence provided the inspiration for local artist Jim Clayton. With a white picket fence painted all around, the Trustee Conference Room serves as a loving memorial to Hawkes' spirit of service to the larger community.

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Idaho Trustee News is also
located at libraries.idaho.gov
and is available, upon request,
in alternative format for
persons with disabilities.



Can library staff volunteer at the library? No!

Volunteerism has a great history in our nation. Public libraries have their origins in women's service clubs and many hours of volunteered labor. Library service has certainly benefited from all those volunteered hours.

While volunteers are very important, trustees and library managers must be diligent in making sure the volunteered hours do not come from library staff. Staff employed in public libraries are considered public sector employees and fall under the guidelines of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

In 1985, Congress amended the FLSA making it clear that people are allowed to volunteer their services to public agencies and their communities with one important exception. "[P]ublic sector employers may not allow their employees to volunteer, without compensation, additional time to do the same work for which they are employed."*

During this time of the year with our libraries all "a buzz" with summer reading programs, it is easy to cite examples of possible violations. Your children's librarian or story time person

may want to volunteer a few hours to help with some of the summer reading activities. Maybe he or she wants to prepare craft projects at home before the activities because, after all, it will only be an hour or two a week for four or six weeks. As public sector employers, the board of trustees and library managers cannot allow these volunteer activities which are definitely similar type of work or services as the employment activities.

As always, when dealing with the intricacies of the law, please seek advice from your legal advisor and/or risk manager. The following are two helpful FLSA web sites provided by the U.S. Department of Labor. They give explanations and clear examples of volunteers in general and some specifics of public sector volunteers.

*www.dol.gov/elaws/esa/flsa/docs/volunteers.asp

www.dol.gov/elaws/esa/flsa/docs/publicvol.asp

Send us your trustee changes

Now that the dust has settled from the District Library trustee elections on May 27th, does your library have any changes to report? It would help ICFL to ensure that trustees get information or any mailings that are sent out if you would let us know: name, start and end date of term (month, year), address (for mail delivery), and who they are replacing.

This information helps us to keep our database up-to-date. City libraries, please let us know if or when you have changes in your board of trustees as well. Please email the updated information to your regional ICFL consultant (see sidebar on this page) and we'll make sure the appropriate people are notified.



Library patrons catch on to e-audio books

Instead of taking an old paperback to the beach, vacationers are bringing along an MP3 player. Audiobooks allow listeners to take their books on the road or out in the field. Area farmers can listen to an entire book while working in the field if they use audiobooks and many are making the move from compact discs to digital MP3 players. Some predicted that with the rise of the Internet would come the demise of the public library. Nothing could be further from the truth, say area librarians. In fact, the case could be made the Internet has made libraries even better. Take the summer beach book - before the Internet it was a battered paperback. Today it is an e-audiobook downloaded from the local library's Web site onto an MP3 player and listened to by commuters, farmers, families on road trips and people exercising, gardening, walking the dog or lying on the beach.

Books have been available in audio form at the library since cassette tapes, but the switch from CD to digital files has enabled libraries to offer thousands of titles at any time of the day or night with no overdue fees. There are no fees because titles are automatically returned when the loan period ends.

"I think we talk patrons into it more and more if they say, 'I think I've listened to everything you have on CD,'" says Ann Best, a clerk at the Lewiston City Library. "Once they've begun and tried it a time or two, it's very simple and they love it."

Books in audio form are extremely popular in the area. "Our biggest users are farmers and people commuting. In the fields or driving long distances, that's when people really seem to love the audiobook. You should see our shelves right before harvest begins, we just get cleaned out in all our branches. It really is a busy time," says Kristie Kirkpatrick, director of the Whitman County Library in Washington.

Seth Smith, a 23-year-old hired hand, estimates he listens to about a book a day while farming wheat and barley in the fields of Tammany outside Lewiston. "Twelve hours on a combine can get kind of long sometimes," Smith says. Because he is in the fields during library hours he sends his wife to pick out books on tape and CD. His favorites are action mysteries. He's worked in the fields for seven harvests and started listening to books last fall. "I like to read but I don't have any time to," Smith says. "It makes the time go extremely fast and it really is relaxing."

Like many library patrons he had not heard about downloadable books but said it would definitely be of interest to him. People find out about them when they tell a librarian they have exhausted the CD collection, says Jennifer Ashby, director at the Asotin County Library. "Then I don't hear from them again because they're off doing their thing."

Some local libraries have mp3s available for check out. Valnet libraries also carry the Playaway, a preloaded digital audio books. Half the size of a deck of cards, each Playaway contains one book and runs on a battery. Clearly marked buttons allow the listener to move back and forth within chapters. An automatic bookmark remembers where you left off. Librarians at Lewiston and Clarkston said there are plans to expand the Playaway selection, which at the moment focuses on books for children.

"The segue into digital media is just part of what libraries do and it makes our collection much richer," Wittman says. "Libraries are probably more vital now than they have been in a lot of years." (Source: May 23rd *Lewiston Tribune*, written by Jennifer K. Bauer)

Trustee resources available on WebJunction

Late summer will see the debut of WebJunction Idaho. The Idaho Commission for Libraries has become a community partner with WebJunction, which will offer the Idaho library community a portal to online continuing education, communities of practice, and other library resources. Initial plans include blogs for Read to Me, technology, and 21st Century Schools where Idaho librarians can share their thoughts and best practices, ask questions and seek information, and build community. The Commission will use WebJunction Idaho as a supplement to its new Web 2.0 site, which will also be unveiled this fall.

Currently the Idaho library community has access to online continuing education courses offered through WebJunction. Online users must be registered with WebJunction, however, it is free and easy. If interested in using the online courses through WebJunction, please contact Shirley Hansen, Continuing Education Consultant, (208) 334-2150 or 1-800- 458-3271, or visit www.webjunction.org/do/Search to connect with great resources for trustees.

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Longtime Hagerman Library Director Wilma Butigan retires



Lifetime card. Butigan was honored with a lifetime library card, granting her and her dog, Molly, access to the library anytime.

Longtime Hagerman Library Director Wilma Butigan was honored at a lively retirement party hosted by library trustees and the community in May. Wilma had been library director for almost 12 years.

Former trustee and current library director Barbara Stobart said the library was in a pretty bad state of affairs when she moved to Hagerman in 1993. "My next visit was after Wilma arrived and I was so surprised to see the difference. She had really cleaned this place up. It was amazing. Wilma was the glue that kept everything going and she worked hard to get everything up to policy," Stobart said.

A fire burned part of the library in 2000 causing a lot of damage to the small library. "Wilma did a miraculous job of clean up and restocking the library," Stobart said.

A Lifetime Library membership was presented to Wilma in appreciation of all she has done. "She had lived in Hagerman at the beginning and her loyalty always was here. Living in Wendell would, under normal circumstances, require paying for non-resident fees each year. The lifetime card gives her resident rights for as long as she wants them. She is a very hard worker, loved this library and took good care of it. We worked very well together and I have missed her the last couple of weeks. It's always nice when a job situation works its way into a friendship," Stobart said.